

## LITERARY NOTES.

The introduction to the "Leopold Shakespeare" has been revised by the author, Mr. Furnival for the edition now publishing in parts.

Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion," containing the suppressed passages, was lately sold in London for £10 10s. and Nash's "Mansion of England," 3 vols., for £15 10s.

Unpublished documents and letters of Washington will comprise the whole of the February number of *The Magazine of American History*. Contributions are solicited for the January number, which begins the third year of that periodical. The Editor has an article on the "Birth of the Empire State," which gives an analytical account of the formation of the Constitution of New-York in 1777—a document which was far in advance of its time in its model to the framers of the Constitution of the United States.

Miss Alcott's "Under the Lilacs" is winning marked favor in England. *The Pall Mall Gazette* joins with other journals in praising the book. Miss Alcott "has found her way to the hearts of so many young English readers" that a new story from her is "sure to create lively anticipations of pleasure," and it "will satisfy the author's most ardent admirers." Again: "We cannot give an account of half the fun or pathos in this clever story, but must content ourselves with saying that they will be fully enjoyed by those who find 'Under the Lilac' among their Christmas gifts."

Fanny Kemble, in her "Record of a Girlhood," which Henry Holt & Co. will publish next month, frequently speaks of many interesting and famous literary people of the time to which her work refers (1820-1834). Among them are Lady Byron, the Hon. Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Jameson, Charles Greville, author of the "Greville Memoirs," Tennyson and his friend Arthur Hallam, and Washington Irving. She relates of Sir Thomas Lawrence, the portrait painter, that while frequenting the house of Mrs. Siddons he fell in love with and proposed to her eldest daughter Sarah, by whom he was accepted. But the engagement was not a happy one, and before long the artist became restless, moody, and extremely and strongly miserable. At last he turned to Mrs. Siddons that he had mistaken his feelings, which in reality were centred in her younger daughter. He was permitted to transfer his allegiance, and became the acknowledged suitor of Maria Siddons. But this engagement also was afterward dissolved. Both young ladies died in rapid succession, and though there was in them a tendency to consumption, Fanny Kemble surmises that it was hastened by the disastrous ending of the engagements. Many years after, and just before Fanny made her first appearance on the stage, Lawrence stopped her father on the street one day and spoke with great feeling of his interest in the young girl. His son, who had then made her acquaintance, and an intimate friendship existed between them at the time of the painter's sudden death. In another part of her book the author writes that "in spite of the forty years difference in our age and my knowledge of his disastrous relations with my cousin, I could not bear to look with love at him, for he was a fourth member of our family whose life he would have disturbed and embittered."

The new edition of Goncourt's "Madame de Pompadour," just published in Paris, contains several new letters and other papers of interest and importance. A writer in *The Pall Mall Gazette* who has seen the book, remarks that the injured Queen Mary Leckie appears to have been as worthy and amiable a lady as ever sat on a throne. The central facts of her life were the daily mass and the daily reception. "The most innocent pleasures are not for me," she used to say. Madame de Pompadour loved power, and Louis only wished to be delivered from ennuis, the real bane and tyrant of his life. She amused him, and the grateful lover readily gave her authority. How real was her power appears in a story told of the Duke de Richelieu, who spoke rudely to a servant of hers one day, and when next in the presence of the King, was asked: "Monseigneur le Due, Monsieur le Due, how often have you been in the Bastille?" The Duke soberly replied: "Three times, sire," and having amended his ways was troubled no further. The King having granted a *lettre de cachet*, Pompadour obtained his consent to revoke it, and in a peremptory manner demanded the Minister Maurepas to allow the person in question to return to Court. "The order," replied M. de Maurepas, "must come from his Majesty." The King, who was present, merely said, "Do what my lady tells you." The Queen was obliged to receive her rival and ultimately to accept her as a lady-in-waiting. At the first interview the mistress trembled at the thought of meeting the woman she had wronged, but the Queen "behaved with perfect tact and even kindness," which quieted her fears. She was ambitious of power and every effort was made to obtain a position in the literary men of the age, and Voltaire dedicated to her his drama of "Tancrède." To Rousseau one day she sent a present of £40, for which he "grovled out something" between them and an ungratefulness, taking due care, however, to retain the cash.

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